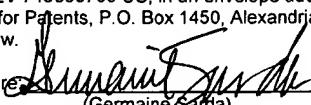


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 743885793 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: February 23, 2006 Signature: 
(Germaine Garda)

Docket No.: 251502006900
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hendrik L. BIJL et al.

Application No.: 08/821,025

Confirmation No.: 3574

Filed: March 19, 1997

Art Unit: 1651

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A
GRANULAR MICROBIAL BIOMASS AND
ISOLATION OF A COMPOUND
THEREFROM

Examiner: I. Marx

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 23, 2005, for which a response was due on November 23, 2005. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three months extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to February 23, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.